to tighten its vigil in the State and also to make it terrorist free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) According to information furnished by the State Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, fifteen Kashmiri workers were picked up on a tip off, from various sites of Natha Jhakri Project by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh police, during 15-20 May, 1994 for interrogation. After interrogation, it was found that six of them were having links with militants of Kashmiri and are presently in police custody.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The State Government has taken several steps to tackle the menace of terrorism in the State which include strengthening of the police force in Chamba District, establishment of Check posts at important locations, police verification of Kashmiri labour and tightening of security of important installations.

Amendment to Section 309 of Indian Penal Code

7754. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the overall implications of the recent Supreme Court's judgement granting right to commit suicide and what is the estimated number of attempted suicide cases anticipated to be dropped as a consequence thereof in various courts in the country; and

(b) whether an amendment to Section 309 of Indian Penal Code is proposed to be brought by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 26th April, 1994 delivered in P. Rathinam/Nagbhushan Patnaik Vs. Union of India and others has declared section 309 of the Indian Penal Code as violative of Article 21 of the Constitution of India. As a result, 'attempt to commit suicide' has ceased to be an offence under the Indian Penal Code. Incidentally, the Law Commission of India in its Fourty-Second Report had also recommended the repeal of Section 309. The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1978 which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 23rd November, 1978 sought, inter-alia, to delete this section from the Code. The Bill, however, lapsed due to dissolution of the Lok Sabha in 1979. Hence the Section could not be deleted.

Information regarding the number of cases that may have to be dropped as a result of the Supreme Court Judgement will be available with the State Governments. These cases may be different stages, like, those under investigation,, those under trial, those under appeal etc. Hence it is not practicable to give any estimate of the number of such cases.

Vacant Posts of DIG Rank Officers in Intelligence Bureau

7755. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number DIG rank posts which are lying vacant in the Intelligence Bureau as on date;

(b) whether in view of the fact that the efficiencey of the services is maintained in the interest of the country, Government would consider promotion of IPS Officers of 1979-1980 batches on adhoc basis;

(c) whether such an arrangement is possible till the drawing of a regular panel for promotion to those posts; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE